

*Amendments*

*In the Claims:*

Please amend claims 1 and 15.

*B7C*

1. (Twice Amended) A method of confining a commodity in a composite container having a plurality of constituents, comprising the steps of:

- assembling the constituents into the composite container around the commodity;
- providing at least some of the constituents with characteristic indicia not later than in the course of the assembling step;
- processing the characteristic indicia into information which is characteristic of each individual assembled container; and
- encoding the information upon at least one constituent of the container.

*B7*

15. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for confining successive ones of a series of commodities in composite containers each of which has a set of constituents, comprising:

- means for conveying successive commodities of the series along a predetermined path;
- means for assembling the constituents of the sets into the containers, including placing the constituents around successive commodities in a predetermined sequence in successive portions of the path;

means for providing at least some constituents of each set with characteristic indicia not

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*cont* later than in the respective portions of said path;

means for processing the characteristic indicia on said at least some constituents of each  
set into information which is characteristic of each individual assembled container; and

means for encoding the information upon each individual container.

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